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Country programme document

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for Lao People's Democratic Republic is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of $12,880,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $50,000,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2017 to 2021.

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, the present document reflects comments made by Executive Board members on the draft CPD that was shared 12 weeks before the second regular session of 2016.

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Programme rationale

1. The Lao People's Democratic Republic is a land-linked, mountainous country with a young and ethnically diverse population. With a total population of 6.5 million,[1] some 59 per cent are children and young people below the age of 25.[2] Population growth dropped from 2.08 per cent per annum between 1995 and 2005 to 1.45 per cent between 2005 and 2015.[3] There are 49 official ethnic groups comprised of 167 subgroups with different dialects, languages, cultures and traditions.[4]

2. The Lao People's Democratic Republic has developed its Eighth National Socioeconomic Development Plan, 2016-2020, that aims to reduce poverty significantly and graduate from its least developed country status by 2020. The eighth plan localizes the Sustainable Development Goals into national targets and places a strong emphasis on the achievement of off-track Millennium Development Goals.

3. The country has progressively integrated into the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) economic community — a single market and production base — which includes transportation corridors in which the country is pivotal.

4. Strong economic growth, driven primarily by natural resources and energy sectors, enabled the country to move from a low income to a lower middle-income country in 2011. The economy grew at 7.5 per cent between 2011 and 2013,[5] and poverty has fell by half.[6] However, inequalities remain with significant disparities between urban and rural, upland and lowland, wealth quintiles, mother's education and ethnicity.[7]

5. The country has achieved Millennium Development Goal targets on poverty reduction, universal access and gender parity in primary education, maternal mortality reduction, and access to water and sanitation.[8] However, some targets, such as child nutrition and primary school completion, remain unmet, and many social indicators are among the lowest in East Asia and the Pacific, with significant disparities in access and utilization.

6. The country's under-five mortality rate fell from 162 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 67 in 2015.[9] The majority of deaths is due to preventable causes, such as neonatal conditions, pneumonia and diarrhoea.[10] Child mortality rates vary

[1] Ministry of Planning and Investment, Lao Statistics Bureau: Lao Population and Housing Census, 2015.
[2] Lao Statistics Bureau, 2013, estimates from 2005 Lao Population and Housing Census.
[3] Ministry of Planning and Investment, op. cit.
[4] Lao Statistics Bureau, 2013 estimates from 2005 Lao Population and Housing Census.
[5] Asian Development Bank (ADB) and International Labour Organization (ILO), 2014, "ASEAN community 2015: Managing integration for better jobs and shared prosperity", Bangkok.
[6] Lao Statistics Bureau and Ministry of Planning and Investment, Lao Expenditure and Consumption Survey 5 — preliminary results, 2015.
[7] Warr, P., Rasphone, S. and Menon, J., "Two decades of rising inequality and declining poverty in the Lao People's Democratic Republic", ADB Economic Working Paper Series, No. 461, November 2015.
[8] United Nations in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, "The Millennium Development Goals and lessons learned for the post-2015 period: a summary review", 2015.
[9] United Nations Inter-agency Group on Child Mortality Estimation, 2015.
[10] Lives saved tool analysis for the Lao People's Democratic Republic, 2015.

by geographic location, ethnic group, mother's education and socioeconomic status.[11]

7. Undernutrition contributed to half of all under-five deaths. Around 44 per cent of children under five are stunted,[12] and 41 per cent suffer from anaemia,[13] among the highest rates in East Asia and the Pacific. Children in the northern and southern regions exhibit a higher prevalence of stunting (51 and 47 per cent, respectively) than children in the central region (38 per cent).[14] Inadequate infant and young child feeding contributes to high mortality and undernutrition. While the exclusive breastfeeding rate for children under six months doubled between 2006 and 2012, continued breastfeeding declined and formula use increased during the same period.[15] Minimum dietary diversity in young children is very low, especially among the poorest.[16]

8. The maternal mortality ratio fell from 905 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 197 in 2015,[17] but it is still one of the highest in East Asia and the Pacific. Decline in fertility, improvements in contraception prevalence, antenatal care coverage and skilled birth attendance contributed to the decline. Among women of reproductive age, 36 per cent suffer from anaemia.[18]

9. About 1.7 million people still lack access to an improved water source, two million people to basic sanitation and hygiene, and an estimated 1.6 million people practice open defecation.[19] Urban and rural disparities are significant, with nine in 10 persons in urban areas using improved sanitation facilities compared to five in 10 in rural areas. Water collection is mainly the responsibility of women and girls. Key bottlenecks in the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector include an insufficient national policy, limited funding, weak coordination among key sectors, lack of community ownership, and social norms that hinder hygiene practice and use of sanitation facilities.

10. While the country is well endowed with water, climate change, the El Niño effect and human activities are gradually affecting the sustainability of WASH services and the quality of water resources. With some 75 per cent of the population depending on natural resources for their livelihood, climate change adaptation is a national priority.

11. Enrolment of five year olds in early childhood education has increased significantly, from 16.1 per cent in 2007 to 60.7 per cent in 2014,[20] although significant inequities remain. There is high social demand for early childhood education but capacity to expand the coverage is limited. The Grade 1 repetition rate in 2014 (15.3 per cent) was more than double the average primary education

[11] Lao Social Indicator Survey, 2011-2012.
[12] Ibid.
[13] Ministry of Planning and Investment (Lao Statistics Bureau) and Ministry of Health: Lao Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2006.
[14] Ibid.
[15] Lao Social Indicator Survey, 2011-2012.
[16] Ministry of Health and Lao Bureau of Statistics, Food and Nutrition Security Survey, 2015.
[17] United Nations Inter-agency Group on Maternal Mortality Estimation, 2015.
[18] Ministry of Planning and Investment (Lao Statistics Bureau) and Ministry of Health: MICS, 2006.
[19] WHO/UNICEF joint monitoring programme for water supply and sanitation, 2015.
[20] Education management information system, Ministry of Education and Sports, 2014.

repetition (6.9 per cent),[21] indicating a lack of school readiness. Language barriers are key factors, contributing to the high repetition rate, especially in Grade 1.[22]

12. Despite high rates of primary net enrolment with gender parity, the primary education survival rate is currently 78 per cent,[23] the lowest in East Asia and the Pacific. In urban areas, 95 per cent of children attend school compared to 83 per cent in rural areas. The early grade reading assessment survey results from 2012, showing that only 58 per cent of Grade 5 students in the sample achieved a basic level of reading fluency, raising concerns about the quality of primary education.[24]

13. Of children aged two to 14, 76 per cent experience physical punishment or psychological aggression from an adult in their households, of which 10 per cent experience severe physical punishment.[25] The country has one of the lowest rates of birth registration in Asia, with only 75 per cent of children below age five registered.[26] The country has the highest percentage of child marriage in East Asia and the Pacific, with 37 per cent of women aged 20 to 49 married by age 18. Information on children with disabilities and children without parental care is very limited.

14. There is a need to further harmonize national policies and laws with international legal obligations and translate them into practice through dissemination, enforcement and implementation. Institutional and human capital for child care are limited, as are family-support and community-based child protection services. Awareness about violence and its impact on children is low at all levels, and social norms that perpetuate the use of violence are widely accepted.

15. The country has achieved important policy advances in health and nutrition, WASH, education and child protection, which led to some significant advances for children. However, studies and evaluations during the current country programme suggest that execution of policies and plans face many challenges as a result of insufficient capacity, difficult terrain, dispersed populations in remote areas and lack of demand.

16. Outbreaks of diphtheria and polio in 2015 provided valuable lessons learned by underlining the importance of ensuring essential services in hard-to-reach areas, despite the overall shift to upstream work by development partners inspired by economic transition.

17. Guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UNICEF comparative advantage includes strong technical expertise on the ground, with operational capacities in both development and humanitarian contexts, evidence-informed programmes focusing on the needs of the underserved and hard-to-reach children, a balanced approach to support upstream policy and downstream execution, advocacy and communications, and multi-sectoral engagement in social sectors.

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[21] Ibid.

[22] Education for All 2015 review: the Lao People's Democratic Republic country report, Ministry of Education and Sports, 2014.

[23] Ibid.

[24] Early grade reading assessment, 2014.

[25] Lao Social Indicator Survey, 2011-2012.

[26] Ibid.

Programme priorities and partnerships

18. The country programme, 2017-2021, aligns with seven of the eight outcomes of the United Nations Partnership Framework, 2017-2021, and contributes to the achievement of the national priorities of the Eighth National Socioeconomic Development Plan, 2016-2020. It is also linked to the Sustainable Development Goals on poverty reduction, hunger, health, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, reduced inequalities, peace and justice, and partnerships.

19. To develop this country programme, UNICEF consulted extensively with national and local governments, development partners, other United Nations organizations and civil society organizations, including analysis of barriers and bottlenecks to social service delivery and the theory of change behind the definition of programmatic results.

20. The country programme's overall goal is to ensure that children, especially the most disadvantaged, fully enjoy their rights to survival, development and protection. It will balance the support to upstream policy work with capacity strengthening to deliver services and to create demand for services in disadvantaged communities. UNICEF will support the Government to address the concluding observations of the Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

21. To achieve results, the country programme will employ six mutually reinforcing strategies that include: (a) evidence generation and advocacy for policy dialogue to inform and strengthen national policies, laws, budgets and standards; (b) institutional and human capacity strengthening for policy development and execution; (c) communications for development to promote healthy practices and social norms, and to facilitate community mobilization and ownership; (d) service delivery to ensure community demands are met through strengthened integrated outreach services and operational capacities, including essential commodities and supplies; (e) broad partnerships for children to ensure aid effectiveness in line with the Vientiane Declaration II on Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, 2016-2025, South-South cooperation, and to leverage resources for children; and (f) innovation to support programme implementation, communications and monitoring of results, including through social media and mobile technology.

22. While the programme operates at the national level in the areas of policy advocacy and capacity strengthening, activities to improve service delivery will focus on seven selected provinces and districts with challenging child development indicators. All UNICEF programmes will promote the resilience of children, families and communities, and enhance national capacity for risk-informed development programming, emergency preparedness and response. A gender lens will be applied throughout all programmes, addressing the barriers that undermine the realization of children's rights.

23. The increase in foreign direct investment and the rapidly growing private sector call for innovative means of engagement with new partners, including the private sector, to enhance corporate social responsibility and social movement for children. UNICEF will play a lead role in key sectors, focusing strategically on result areas where it has technical expertise and comparative advantages, such as nutrition, WASH, education and child protection.

Health and nutrition

24. The programme will ensure that more children and women, especially the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach, utilize quality health and nutrition services and benefit from positive care practices during pregnancy, childbirth and early childhood in line with the Eighth Health Sector Development Plan, 2016-2020.

25. UNICEF will strengthen the institutional and human capacity of the Ministry of Health to deliver evidence-based intervention packages that address the major causes of mortality and undernutrition in children and women, including: (a) maternal and neonatal care interventions; (b) preventive child health and nutrition interventions, including immunization, infant and young child feeding, micronutrients and deworming; and (c) curative child health and nutrition interventions, including integrated management of neonatal and childhood illnesses and severe acute malnutrition.

26. UNICEF will prioritize equity-focused delivery platforms, such as integrated health outreach and community-based programmes, and strengthen supply chain management systems for child survival and nutrition commodities. It will support health system strengthening approaches at the subnational level to build provincial and district management capacity for evidence-based planning, implementation and monitoring. UNICEF will strengthen the capacity of the Government for disaster risk reduction in the health sector, including emergency preparedness, response and resilience-building, and fulfil its mandate as nutrition-cluster-lead and health cluster member, should any emergencies occur.

27. UNICEF will work with government counterparts, mass organizations, national and local opinion leaders, development partners, United Nations organizations and civil society organizations to implement evidence-based communication approaches that promote the adoption of positive care practices, address social norms affecting maternal and child health and nutrition, improve community ownership and health sector responsiveness to community needs.

28. The programme will support data collection, analysis and use. UNICEF will support national and subnational surveys, the strengthening of the health management information system and the modelling of information communication technology-based innovation in line with the e-health strategy.

29. UNICEF will enhance its engagement in national and sector coordination mechanisms and forums for aid effectiveness, and advocate for increasing domestic financing in the health and nutrition sectors. UNICEF will strengthen its partnership with Luxembourg, the European Union, the GAVI Alliance, World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Bank and civil society organizations to expand the scope and quality of essential services.

Water, sanitation and hygiene and climate change resilience

30. The programme will ensure that the most disadvantaged children and their families have equitable access to and use of sustainable improved water sources and sanitation facilities, and adopt hygiene practices.

31. UNICEF will work with the Ministry of Health and other related ministries to support the development and implementation of WASH and climate change resilience policies, including the national strategy on sanitation and hygiene.

UNICEF will support the review and revision of guidelines, standards and designs of packages for WASH facilities in communities and schools, strengthen coordination mechanisms, and support the development and use of WASH information management systems.

32. UNICEF will support community resilience-building in response to climate change and natural disasters through the national adaptation programme of action and the national disaster management plan. Communities and schools will be mobilized to raise awareness of water conservation, environmental preservation and resilience development to climate change.

33. UNICEF will strengthen the institutional and human capacities of partners, including civil society organizations, for effective service delivery. More women will be encouraged to become members of WASH committees in communities to support women's engagement in community development.

34. UNICEF will support the implementation of the WASH package, including behavioural change communication interventions in selected schools and communities on the sustainable use of WASH facilities, hygiene practices and disaster risk reduction.

35. UNICEF will partner with Australia, the European Union, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and international non-governmental organizations to support the WASH sector. As cluster lead for WASH in emergencies, UNICEF will work with the Government and cluster members to strengthen capacity for emergency preparedness and response. Disaster risk reduction and community resilience will be further harmonized within WASH development activities.

Education

36. The programme will ensure that children, especially the most disadvantaged and in hard-to-reach areas, have access to quality early childhood and basic education services, and complete the basic education cycle with improved learning outcomes, in line with the Eighth Education Sector Development Plan, 2016-2020.

37. UNICEF will work with partners to influence education policy, and advocate for increased investments in equitable early childhood and primary education, and develop a national costed action plan for early childhood education. In collaboration with other partners, UNICEF will support the revision of the pre-primary curriculum, including the assessment for learning. National education quality standards for pre-primary schools will be developed and monitored.

38. UNICEF will strengthen institutional and human capacity for the Ministry of Education and Sports, district education and sports bureaux, village education development committees, teachers and school principals, including continuous school-based teacher professional development and instructional leadership enhancement, particularly in educationally disadvantaged provinces. Various modalities will be explored, including the use of mobile technologies and district pedagogical advisors, to establish peer support and coaching networks.

39. UNICEF will further support expanding the community-based school readiness programme, which will support the introduction of home-based parenting

interventions in remote communities to actively engage parents and caregivers in children's development and entry into primary schools.

40. UNICEF will focus on supporting knowledge generation and evidence-based sector planning and management. It will support capacity strengthening to analyse and use data from education management information systems at district and school levels. It will support baseline and end-line surveys and studies, including out-of-school children studies, key education quality standards indicators, teacher-classroom interaction practices and student learning outcomes.

41. UNICEF will partner with Australia, JICA, the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), USAID, the European Union, the World Bank, the Global Partnership for Education, United Nations organizations such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Food programme (WFP), and other development partners and civil society organizations to support education sector development. UNICEF will continue to co-lead the education cluster to mainstream disaster risk reduction in education and support districts and schools in strengthening their capacity for emergency preparedness and response.

Child protection

42. The programme will ensure that children are better protected from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. It will strengthen policy, legislative and institutional frameworks, and improve access to and delivery of family support and community-based child protection services.

43. To strengthen child protection systems, UNICEF will support advocacy for policy and legal frameworks; development of quality standards, guidelines and operating procedures for referral and provision of services; capacity development of child protection professionals and service providers; and strengthening of institutional mechanisms to ensure inter-sectoral collaboration and coordination among stakeholders.

44. UNICEF will work closely with the National Commission for Mothers and Children, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the justice sector to support the modelling of services at community level, expand and improve delivery of and access to quality family support and community-based services, prevent and respond to violence against children, and address cross-cutting issues such as child marriage, birth registration and disability. Stimulating demand for services at the individual, family and community levels will be a crucial element of the approach.

45. UNICEF will support partners to engage with parents and caregivers concerning attitudes and beliefs towards physical punishment, other forms of violence and exploitation, and child-rearing practices through behavioural change communication to address social norms and behaviours to improve childcare and protection practices.

46. UNICEF will focus on strengthening data collection, monitoring and reporting to raise awareness of child rights and inform policies and programmes.

47. UNICEF will work in close partnership with Australia, France, the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Union, Save the Children, United Nations organizations, and other international non-governmental organizations and civil

society organizations, and will continue to engage in the social protection cluster for emergencies.

Social inclusion

48. The programme will ensure that the national policy environment and systems for children, particularly the most disadvantaged, are strengthened through improved knowledge and evidence.

49. The social inclusion programme will serve as a knowledge hub and will support the country programme through evidence-generation, policy analysis and advocacy, communication and knowledge management.

50. UNICEF work on social inclusion will focus on supporting disaggregated data collection, analysis and use, inclusive social policy, planning, public finance for children, and strengthening of the national monitoring and evaluation framework of the Eighth National Socioeconomic Development Plan, 2016-2020, and the Sustainable Development Goals at national and subnational levels. UNICEF will support national monitoring and reporting of implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

51. UNICEF aims to increase awareness of child rights throughout society and promote participation of children and young people to express their views. It will advocate through a variety of platforms and networks, including social media, and explore technology for development and other innovations. It will seek to strengthen social mobilization to promote positive behaviours and address social norms.

52. UNICEF will broaden partnerships with development partners, such as Australia, the European Union, France, Luxembourg, Swiss, the United States, United Nations organizations such as WFP, UNFPA, international non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector.

Programme effectiveness

53. UNICEF work for programme effectiveness will support efficiency and effectiveness of the country programme, including financial and human resources management, monitoring and evaluation.

Summary budget table

Programme component	*(In thousands of United States dollars)*		
	Regular resources	*Other resources*	*Total*
Health and nutrition	3 000	13 000	16 000
Water, sanitation and hygiene, and climate change resilience	1 500	11 000	12 500
Education	2 500	9 500	12 000
Child protection	1 500	7 000	8 500
Social inclusion	3 000	7 000	10 000
Programme effectiveness	1 380	2 500	3 880
Total	**12 880**	**50 000**	**62 880**

Programme and risk management

54. The Ministry of Planning and Investment will assume overall coordination of the country programme and delegate coordination of programme components to related line ministries. Under its leadership, work plans will be agreed with related government counterparts, the National Assembly, mass organizations and civil society organizations at national and subnational levels to ensure efficient and effective programme implementation and regular field monitoring. An annual country programme review will be conducted to review progress and respond to emerging issues.

55. The risk management strategy will be updated to mitigate risks in achieving programme results. Disasters can disrupt planned activities and pose threats to children's rights. UNICEF and partners will take a risk-informed approach to development programming and monitor disaster risks closely to ensure rapid adjustments in prevention, preparedness and response.

56. As development partners adapt their assistance strategies to better reflect the country's economic transition, there may be challenges leveraging resources for the most vulnerable children in hard-to-reach areas. This challenges UNICEF to expand partnerships and enhance resource mobilization efforts, including through innovative donor advocacy and increased domestic expenditure on social sector development.

57. The limited capacity of implementing partners to report timely financial and programmatic implementation could hinder programme implementation. Strengthening the capacity of partners as part of the harmonized approach to cash transfers, including through joint monitoring visits, micro-assessments and spot checks, will reduce the risk.

58. This country programme document outlines contributions by UNICEF to national results and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at country level.

Monitoring and evaluation

59. The results and resources framework will be the basis for monitoring and evaluation. The five-year integrated monitoring and evaluation plan, complemented by the costed evaluation plan, will define priority monitoring and thematic evaluation activities. Two key evaluations will be conducted: (a) evaluation of UNICEF support to scaling up nutrition in the Lao People's Democratic Republic; and (b) formative evaluation for the scaling up of the equity-focused community-based school readiness programme. Those evaluations will inform policy decisions to improve programme design and scale up interventions.

60. UNICEF will continue to strengthen national data collection and management systems and support efforts to localize the Sustainable Development Goals and track indicators on key child-related targets. In addition, UNICEF will support government routine monitoring systems with regular field monitoring, jointly with partners. Innovative ways of monitoring will be explored using modern technology

such as mobile phones. UNICEF will accelerate the Monitoring Results for Equity System, with a special focus on underserved and hard-to-reach communities.

61. Annual reviews of the country programme will assess progress and respond to emerging issues. The results of the annual reviews will contribute to the monitoring and reporting of the Eighth National Socioeconomic Development Plan, 2016-2020, and the United Nations Partnership Framework, 2017-2021. A mid-term review will be conducted to make strategic adjustments to the programme and provide direction for future cooperation.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Lao People's Democratic Republic — UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2017-2021

Convention on the Rights of the Child: Articles 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 30, 34, 35, 37, 39, 40, 42 **National priorities:** Eighth National Socioeconomic Development Plan: Outcome 2, Outputs 2, 3, 4, 5: Outcome 3, Output 2 SDGs: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 16, 17
UNDAF outcomes involving UNICEF: Outcome 2: By 2021, a comprehensive social protection policy framework is in place for all people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and coverage of social protection programs is extended, in particular to the poor and vulnerable groups. Outcome 3. By 2021, forests and other ecosystems are protected and enhanced, and there is decreased vulnerability to climate-related events and disasters. Outcome 4: By 2021, children and youth enjoy their rights to access inclusive and equitable quality basic education and vocational skills. Outcome 5. By 2021, people enjoy improved access to quality health services, and water, sanitation and hygiene. Outcome 6: By 2021, the most vulnerable people benefit from improved food security and nutrition. Outcome 7: By 2021, national and subnational institutions have improved functions, financing and capacity to deliver and monitor basic services Outcome 8: By 2021, people enjoy improved access to justice and strengthened rule of law, and more effectively participate in national decision-making. **Outcome indicators measuring change that includes UNICEF contribution:** Maternal mortality ratio; Child mortality rate; Percentage of population using improved drinking water source and sanitation facilities; Prevalence of stunting in children under five; Percentage of children (boys/girls) in Grade 1 who benefited from quality early childhood education; Primary education survival rates of girls and boys in the victims of natural disasters index (male/female); Number of men, women and children benefiting from access to formal justice services; Existence of national social protection strategy with institutional capacity to deliver and monitor the services; Annual report against Eighth National Socioeconomic Development Plan monitoring and evaluation framework
Related UNICEF Strategic Plan outcome(s): Outcome 1–Health; Outcome 3–WASH; Outcome 4–Nutrition; Outcome 5–Education; Outcome 6–Child protection; Outcome 7–Social inclusion.

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
1. By 2021, more children and women in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, especially the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach, utilize quality essential health and nutrition services and benefit from positive care practices during pregnancy, childbirth and early childhood.	**Indicator 1**: Percentage point (pp) difference in diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus (DPT) 3 immunization coverage between lowest/highest wealth quintile, province and ethnic groups **Disaggregation**: wealth/province/ethnicity **Baseline**: 45/68/40 pp.; Lao Social Indicator Survey (LSIS) 2011/12 **Target**: Less than 20 pp.	Household-based survey (LSIS and special coverage surveys)	**Output1**. By 2021, improved health sector capacity at the national and subnational levels for integrated reproductive, maternal, newborn, child health (RMNCH) and nutrition service delivery focused on community-based and health outreach delivery platforms. **Output 2**. By 2021, enhanced government capacity for multi-sectoral nutrition coordination, planning, monitoring and evaluation at the national, provincial and district levels.	**Government and institutions:** Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), provincial and district governments, Lao Front for National Construction (LFNC) **Mass organizations**: Lao Women's Union (LWU) **Non-governmental organizations (NGOs):** Save the Children, Population Services International, CARE International, Plan International, Swiss Red Cross, Health Poverty Action **Development**	3 000	13 000	16 000
	Indicator 2: Percentage of breastfed children 6 to 23 months old with minimum dietary diversity **Disaggregation**: wealth, province, ethnicity **Baseline:** To be established through LSIS2 in 2017 **Target:** 10 pp. increase from 2017 baseline	Household-based survey (LSIS and special coverage surveys)					
	Indicator 3: Percentage of pregnant women who took 90+ iron-folic acid (IFA) tablets during last pregnancy **Disaggregation**: wealth, province, ethnicity **Baseline**: 25%, LSIS 2011-	Household-based survey (LSIS and special coverage surveys)					

UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines and targets	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
	2012; [difference pp. by wealth/province/ethnicity — 51/41/29] **Target**: 65% (RMNCH strategy); [less than 20 pp. difference across population groups]			**partners:** European Union (EU), USAID, Luxembourg, JICA, KOICA, World Bank (WB), ADB, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, International Fund for Agricultural Development, WHO, UNFPA, WFP, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) **Global partnerships:** Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, GAVI Alliance, Global Polio Eradication Initiative **Private sector:** MMG Limited, salt producers, information and communications providers			
	Indicator 4: domestic expenditure on vaccines **Baseline:** $975,346 (2015) **Target:** 1.5 million/per year	UNICEF Supply division data					

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
2. By 2021, the most disadvantaged children and their families have equitable access to and use of sustainable improved water sources, sanitation facilities, and adopt hygiene practices	**Indicator 1**: Proportion of the population using an improved source of drinking water **Baseline**: 76% (WHO/UNICEF joint monitoring programme (JMP) 2015 updates) **Target:** 90%	WHO/UNICEF JMP updates and LSIS	**Output 1.** By 2021, focus provinces and districts have increased capacity to deliver equitable, safe, affordable and climate resilient water, sanitation and hygiene at homes and schools **Output 2.** By 2021, WASH associated ministries and departments have strengthened capacity to develop and adopt evidence based equitable and gender-sensitive policies and budgeted plans for scaling up WASH interventions	**Government and institutions:** MoH, MoES, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Public Work and Transport, LFNC **Mass organizations:** LWU **Development partners:** Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), EU, USAID, Poverty Reduction Fund. JICA, KOICA, WB, ADB, WHO, WFP **NGOs and civil society organizations (CSOs)**: Plan International, Netherlands Development Organization, KfW Bakkengruppe,	1 500	11 000	12 500
	Indicator 2: Proportion of the population having an improved sanitation facility **Baseline:** 71% (WHO/UNICEF JMP 2015 Update) **Target:** 80%	WHO/UNICEF JMP updates and LSIS					

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
				Rural Development Agency			
3. By 2021, children, especially most disadvantaged and in hard-to-reach areas, have access to quality early childhood and basic education services, and complete the basic education cycle with improved learning outcomes.	**Indicator 1:** Percentage of new entrants in Grade 1 of primary education with pre-school experience (boys/girls) **Baseline:** Total: 51.2% (Girls: 52.1%/Boys: 50.3%) (2015) **Target:** 75.0% (Boys: 75.0%/Girls: 75.0%)	Education management information (EMIS), MoES	**Output 1.** By 2021 education related ministries and departments have increased capacity to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate more equity-focused education policies, plans and standards. **Output 2.** By 2021, focus provinces and districts have increased capacity to provide more inclusive, equitable and quality early childhood and basic education services	**Government and institutions:** MoES, MPI, MoH, Nam Saat (MoH), Education Sector Working Group, LFNC **Mass organizations:** LWU **NGOs and CSOs:** Save the Children, World Vision, Plan International **Development Partners:** DFAT, EU, USAID, JICA, KOICA, WB, ADB, GIZ, UNESCO, WFP, UNFPA, FAO, Global Partnership for Education **Inter-governmental:** South-East Asia	2 500	9 500	12 000
	Indicator 2: Repetition rate (RR) and drop-out rate (DR) for Grade 1 and 2 (boys/girls; grade) **Baseline:** **RR** G1: 13.5% (Girls: 12.6% Boys: 14.4%) (2015) G2: 5.6 % (Girls: 4.7% Boys: 6.5%) (2015) **DR** G1: 8.5% (Girls: 8.0% Boys: 9.0%) (2015) G2: 4.7% (Girls: 4.4% Boys: 5.0%) (2015) **Target:** RR G1: 60% decrease G2: 60% decrease	EMIS, MoES					

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
	DR G1: 40% decrease G2: 40% decrease			Ministers of Education Organization			
	Indicator 3: Children at Grade 5 level of education achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in: (a) reading, and (b) mathematics **Baseline:** (a) 58% (EGRA 2012), (b) TBD (Baseline data to be collected) **Target:** (a) XXX, (b) TBD after the baseline survey (SEA-PLM)	Early grade reading assessment (EGRA), South-East Asia primary learning metric (SEA-PLM), National Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes (ASLO)					
	Indicator 4: Gross enrolment rate for lower secondary education (boys/girls) **Baseline:** 78.1% (Girls: 76.0%/Boys: 80.2%) (2015) **Target:** 10% increase	EMIS, MoES					
4. By 2021, children in Lao PDR are better protected from all forms of	**Indicator 1:** Percentage of children aged 2 to 14 who experience violent disciplinary practices	LSIS	**Output 1:** By 2021, strengthened national capacity to legislate, plan and budget for scaling up interventions that prevent and	**Government:** Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Justice,	1 500	7 000	8 500

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.	**Baseline:** 76% of children aged 2 to 14 **Target:** TBD		respond to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. **Output 2:** By 2021, enhanced capacity for improved and equitable access to family support and community-based child protection services.	Ministry of Public Security, People's Supreme Court, People's Supreme Prosecutor, Lao Bar Association **Mass organizations:** LWU **National coordination:** National Commission for Mothers and Children, Juvenile Justice Coordination Committee, Committee for the Assistance and Protection of Children **Development partners:** EU, DFAT, Embassy of France, Embassy of the United Kingdom, USAID			
	Indicator 2: Children under-five whose birth is registered **Baseline:** 75% of children under-five years old **Target:** 80% (by 2025)	LSIS					

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
5. By 2021, national policy environment and systems are improved for disadvantaged children, guided by knowledge and data.	**Indicator 1:** Disaggregated data used for planning, policy analysis and monitoring of children. **Baseline:** Disaggregated data based on LSIS1 **Target:** Disaggregated data of LSIS2 for social sectors; baseline for the Eighth National Socioeconomic Development Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals	Two thematic studies and analysis from LSIS2; and policy briefs for social sectors	**Output 1:** By 2021, disaggregated data from surveys and administrative data available and monitoring and evaluation framework strengthened to inform policy, planning, social budgeting, monitoring and evaluation at national and subnational levels. **Output 2:** By 2021, key national partners have increased capacity to plan, implement and monitor strategic communication for social and behavioural change.	**Government and Institutions:** MPI, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, national and provincial assemblies, Ministry of Information Technology and Communication, LFNC **Mass Organizations:** LWU **United Nations partners** UNDP, UNFPA **Development Partners:** EU, DFAT, USAID, WB, ADB, GIZ, Luxemburg **NGOS/CSOs** **Media**	3 000	7 000	10 000
	Indicator 2: Public social sector expenditure for children as a percentage of GDP (health, education and social welfare) **Baseline:** 12.3% education and 5% health **Target:** 17% for education and 9% for health (to be confirmed in 2017 based on the national development plan of the Government)	Government report					

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
Country programme is effectively and efficiently planned, coordinated, implemented and monitored to achieve results for children.	**Indicator 1:** Number of participatory annual programme reviews conducted during the programme cycle **Baseline:** 5 (2012-2016) **Target:** 5	Annual review reports	**Output 1:** UNICEF staff and partners are provided guidance, tools and resources to effectively design, plan and monitor programmes. **Output 2:** Strategies to address cross-cutting issues related to child rights are developed and applied.	**UNICEF** **United Nations** **Government**	1 380	2 500	3 880
Total resources					**12 880**	**50 000**	**62 880**